

SECTION 9. ACTION PLAN

The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan is intended to guide future planning efforts to protect natural resources, improve recreational opportunities, and make Arlington a more climate resilient community over the next seven years (2029). It is designed to implement the goals and objectives outlined in Section 8 and to address the needs identified in Section 7. The Action Plan is also intended to be consistent with other local plans, specifically those outlined in Section 6, and, to the extent practical, MAPC's *MetroCommon 2050*, and the Massachusetts *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Map 9-1 highlights places in Arlington that link to selected OSRP objectives.

The Open Space Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the numerous Town departments, boards, and committees, private and non-profit entities, and regional, state, and federal agencies that have ownership and management responsibilities.

The Action Plan prioritizes strategies based on a targeted completion timeframe as follows:

- Highest priority actions will be accomplished in the short term (2022-2024).
- Actions that meet intermediate needs will be accomplished in the mid-term (2025-2027).
- Lower priority actions will be accomplished in the long-term (2028-2029).
- Ongoing actions occur during the entire seven-year period.

Potential funding sources are identified for each action item, ranging from available municipal budgets to applying for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds or pursuing state or federal grant opportunities. An acronym key is provided. Each action item also has one or more responsible parties listed to champion its implementation.

In early 2022 the Town began work on a comprehensive Public Land Management Plan to assess all municipal properties (conservation areas, recreation facilities, historic landscapes and cemeteries, ornamental historic gardens, and other public spaces), and to identify specific land management strategies. That plan will complement and provide direction to many of the specific objectives highlighted in this Action Plan.

Implementation

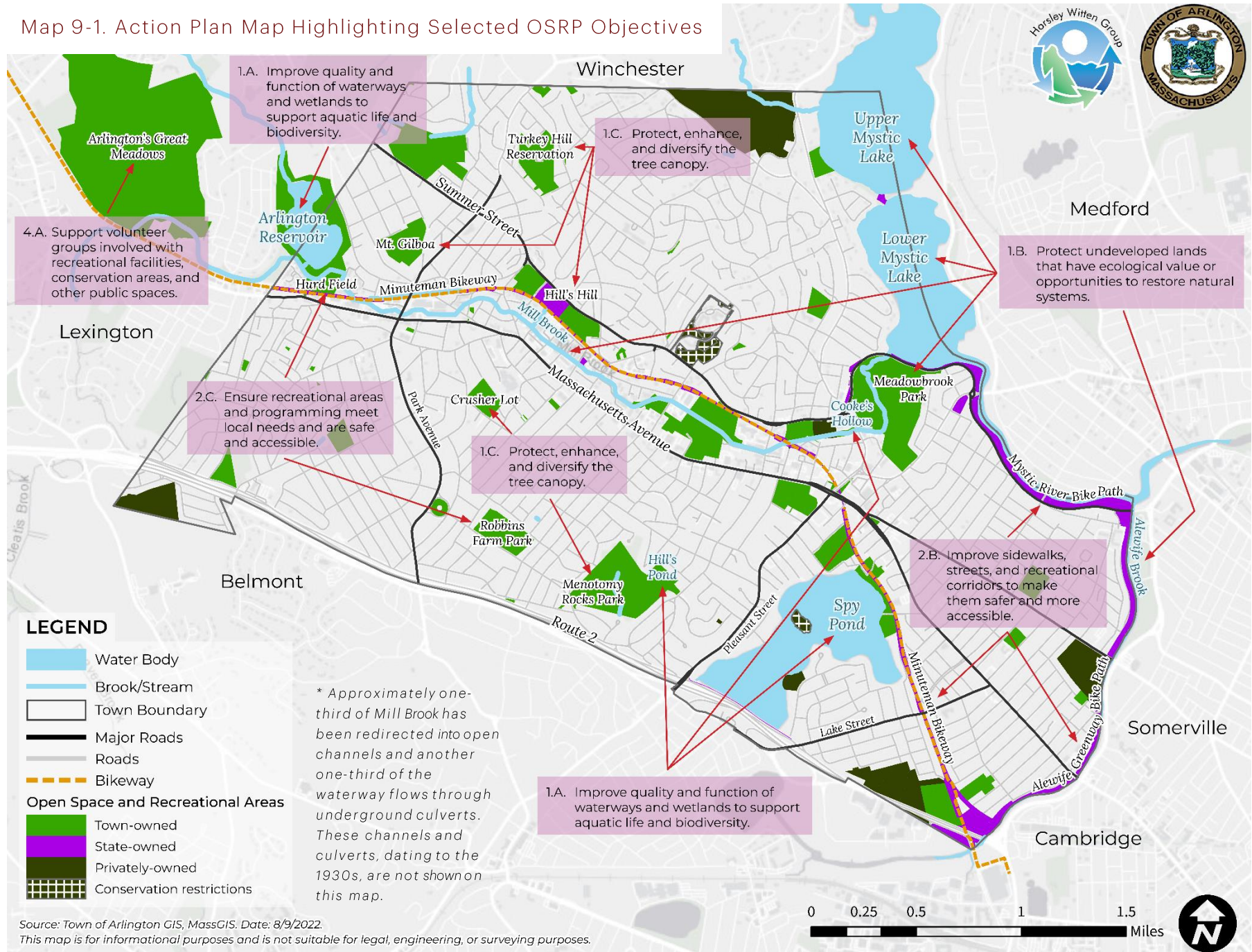
Implementing the Action Plan will take the coordinated effort of all responsible parties. As the entity responsible for the OSRP, the Open Space Committee will ask all participants in the Action Plan to report on an annual basis the status of their respective action items. Timeframes are established; however, it is recognized that circumstances may change and impact resource availability, which may cause actions to move up or down in priority. As lead parties report out to the Open Space Committee, they should discuss why actions could not be completed, or why others rose to the top. This will help the Town prepare for the next OSRP update and other open space and recreational planning efforts. As supporting documents, reports, and studies used to develop the OSRP are revised, updated, and implemented, these activities should also be reported to the Open Space Committee and documented for future OSRP updates.

All of this work will be guided by the Town of Arlington's overriding community goal: *Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.*



Turkey Hill. Photo credit: Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Map 9-1. Action Plan Map Highlighting Selected OSRP Objectives



Action Plan

Acronym Key

Responsible Parties

ABAC	Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee	DPCD	Department of Planning and Community Development	MyRWA	Mystic River Watershed Association
ACAC	Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture	DPW	Department of Public Works	OSC	Open Space Committee
ACC	Arlington Conservation Commission	ED	Engineering Division, DPW	PLMPWG	Public Land Management Plan Working Group
AHA	Arlington Housing Authority	FoAGM	Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows	PRC	Park and Recreation Commission
AHiS	Arlington Historical Society	HC	Historic Commission	REC	Recreation Department
ALT	Arlington Land Trust	HCA	Housing Corporation of Arlington	SA	Sustainable Arlington
ARB	Arlington Redevelopment Board	HDC	Historic Districts Commission	SB	Select Board
A-TED	Arlington Tourism and Economic Development	MAPC	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	SPC	Spy Pond Committee
CC	Cemetery Commission	MBTA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority	TAC	Transportation Advisory Commission
CEFC	Clean Energy Future Committee	MBWG	Mill Brook Working Group	TC	Tree Committee
DC	Disability Commission	MPIC	Master Plan Implementation Committee	TM	Town Manager
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation (state)	MWRA	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	TW	Tree Warden
				ZBA	Zoning Board of Appeals

Potential Funding Sources

CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (federal)	LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund (state)	PARC	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (state)
CPA	Community Preservation Act (town)	MassDOT	Complete Streets Program (state)		Safe Routes to School (state)
CPC	Capital Planning Committee (town)	MassTrails	(state)	Town	Department/committee budgets (town)
LAND	Land Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (state)	MVP	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (state)	Town Meeting	(town)
				WBF	Water Bodies Fund (town)

Goal 1. Protect the natural environment to retain its important functions and values, and help Arlington adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
Objective 1.A. Improve the quality and functioning of the Town's waterways and wetlands to support aquatic life and biodiversity.			
1.A.1. Implement the Town's stormwater management standards to require the use of nature-based solutions to treat and manage runoff to the greatest extent practical.	Ongoing	Town	ED, DPW, ACC, DPCD
1.A.2. Continue to implement strategies from the <i>Mill Brook Corridor Report</i> to expand public access and restore and enhance the natural features of the corridor, such as at Cooke's Hollow.	Ongoing	MVP, CPA, CPC, Private	DPCD, ACC, OSC ARB, MBWG, PRC
1.A.3. Continue to monitor Spy Pond, the Reservoir, and other water bodies to ensure they are meeting both recreational and environmental objectives.	Ongoing	WBF	ACC, SPC, PRC, DPW
1.A.4. Complete implementation of the <i>Arlington Reservoir Master Plan</i> .	2022-2024	CPA	PRC
1.A.5. Support continued funding for the Water Bodies Fund for the treatment and removal of invasive weeds and other plants from the Reservoir, Spy Pond, Hill's Pond, and other areas as needed.	Ongoing	TM, WBF	ACC, TM, SPC, PRC
Objective 1.B. Protect undeveloped lands that have ecological value, wildlife corridor connections, and habitats for native flora and fauna, or that present opportunities to restore natural systems.			
1.B.1. Identify opportunities to protect private lands adjacent to and near the Town's more distressed natural resources such as Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, and Spy Pond. Consider diverse approaches and incentives for property owners, including acquisition, conservation restrictions, donations, and other means of protection.	Ongoing	LAND, LWCF	DPCD, ARB, ZBA, ALT
1.B.2. Educate property owners about the benefits of conservation restrictions or other means of protection for their land and the community at large.	Ongoing	Town	ACC, ALT
1.B.3. Enforce the conditions in the Zoning Board of Appeals 2021 decision on Thorndike Place (the Mugar property) regarding establishment of a perpetual conservation restriction on the designated 12-acre "Conservation Parcel".	Ongoing	Town	ZBA, SB, TM, ACC, DPCD, ARB, ALT

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
1.B.4. Conduct an inventory of Town-owned properties not permanently protected and determine ecological and/or recreation value. Coordinate this effort with the ongoing development of a Public Land Management Plan and input from the Master Plan Implementation Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to ensure their protection, especially sites adjacent to existing open spaces, parks, wetlands, and waterways including those along Mill Brook, Spy Pond, Alewife Brook, Meadowbrook Park, and the Mystic Lakes. 	2022-2024	CPA	PLMPWG, ACC, PRC, OSC, MPIC
1.B.5. Support the monitoring and stewardship work of the Arlington Land Trust and Conservation Commission, co-holders of a conservation restriction on the open space at the Symmes site (now Arlington 360).	Ongoing	Town	ALT, ACC
Objective 1.C. Protect, enhance, and diversify the Town's tree canopy.			
1.C.1. Develop forestry management plans for Town-owned properties as identified by the Public Land Management Plan. Priorities include Mt. Gilboa, Menotomy Rocks Park, Turkey Hill, Hill's Hill, and the Crusher Lot.	2022-2024	Town	DPW, TW, PRC, ACC, PLMPWG, TC
1.C.2. Develop a public education campaign for private property owners to protect mature trees and plant trees on their properties.	Ongoing	Town	TC, OSC, ACC
1.C.3. Continue to plant new public trees to reach the Town goal of a net increase of 2,000 trees in 20 years.	Ongoing	Town	DPW, ACC, TW, TC
1.C.4. Prioritize new public tree plantings in neighborhoods that have a low Tree Equity Score and/or are most affected by heat island effects.	Ongoing	Town	DPW, TW, TC
1.C.5. Develop an overall data management system for the Town's Public Tree Inventory to track tree removal and new tree plantings.	Ongoing	Town	TW, DPW, ED, DPCD, TC
1.C.6. Develop a long-range management plan for the maintenance of public trees that can include pruning, irrigation, fertilization, cabling, and other programs on a yearly, multi-year cycle, or "as needed" basis. Disposal of tree debris, including recycling options, should be considered.	Ongoing	Town	DPW, TW, TC
1.C.7. Coordinate with adjacent property owners of newly planted street trees to help with watering during the warmer months of the year.	Ongoing	Town	TC, TW, DPW

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
Objective 1.D. Ensure that public and private investments support and enhance the resilience of the Town's natural environment.			
1.D.1. Continue to install nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff on public properties and to showcase the multiple benefits these installations have to the community and natural systems.	Ongoing	Town	DPW, ACC, SA, MyWRA
1.D.2. Continue to target areas with recurring flooding for new stormwater management approaches. Monitor East Arlington to ensure the objectives of stormwater and CSO improvements have been achieved.	Ongoing	MVP	DPW, MyWRA, MWRA
1.D.3. Use native and pollinator-friendly vegetation appropriate for an urban environment in Town landscaping projects, including more curbside rain gardens. Focus along the Massachusetts Avenue corridor and other commercial streets.	Ongoing	Town	DPW, ACC, SA, ARB
1.D.4. Implement Arlington's Design Standards along the Mill Brook Corridor to enhance and protect the riverbank and water quality. Pursue opportunities to expand and enhance public access to Mill Brook by linking existing and new open spaces.	Ongoing	Town	ARB, OSC, DPCD, ACC, MBWG
1.D.5. Review Town policies and regulations to ensure that they include climate impact considerations on natural systems and their ecological functions, and identify updates as needed.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, OSC, ACC, ARB, PRC, SA
Objective 1.E Coordinate protection of the natural environment with other climate resilience and adaptation plans and goals.			
1.E.1. Ensure that all work resulting from the OSRP conforms with town, state, regional, and federal requirements and aligns with the action steps of such plans. Priority plans and goals for alignment include the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, <i>MetroCommon 2050</i> , and the Town's own Hazard Mitigation Plan, Mill Brook Corridor Report, Connect Arlington, and Master Plan.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, OSC, SA

Goal 2. Ensure that the Town’s recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces meet local needs and are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all.

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
Objective 2.A. Ensure that public and private investments support and build upon the Town’s recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.			
2.A.1 Explore future development and redevelopment projects, particularly those within environmental justice communities, to incorporate meaningful open spaces and recreational opportunities onsite for residents. Walking and biking connections should be prioritized to nearby recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.	Ongoing	CDBG, CPA, Private	ARB, ZBA, AHA, HCA
2.A.2. Investigate establishing a “recreation and open space gift fund” for specific open space and recreational areas to capture payments or in-kind contributions to invest in nearby resources to build natural system function and capacity or enhance recreational amenities.	2025-2027	Private, Town	OSC, SB
2.A.3. Identify and develop plans to address long-term needs for public burial options in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and other possible sites.	Ongoing	Private, Town	CC, DPCD, DPW
Objective 2.B. Improve the Town’s sidewalks, streets, and recreational corridors to make them safer and more accessible for all users			
2.B.1. Continue to implement <i>Connect Arlington</i> to increase multi-modal opportunities in town and address safety, access, and efficiency of walking, biking, and transit use, particularly around Town public spaces and recreational areas.	Ongoing	MassDOT Complete Streets Program, MassTrails	DPCD, TAC, TM, SB, ARB, ABAC, Town Manager
2.B.2. Continue to identify and implement projects around local schools that would improve walking and biking safety for students.	Ongoing	Safe Routes to Schools	DPCD, TAC, School Committee
2.B.3. Find opportunities to create Green Streets—trees, landscaping, and infrastructure—in consultation with the Town’s Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.	Ongoing	Town, MassDOT Complete Streets Program	DPCD, TAC, SB, DPW
2.B.4. Work with the Tri-Town Bikeway Committee (Arlington, Lexington, Bedford) to improve maintenance, safety, and amenities on the Minuteman Bikeway.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, ABAC, DPW, Town Manager, MBTA

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
2.B.5. Implement the <i>Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project</i> to increase safety and accessibility of the Bikeway.	2025-2027	Town, MassDOT Complete Streets Program, Private, CPA, MassTrails	DPCD, ABAC, DPW, Town Manager, MBTA, OSC
2.B.6. Implement the <i>Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway Feasibility Study</i> to strengthen the walking and biking connections between the Minuteman Bikeway, Mystic River Paths, and Alewife Brook Greenway.	2025-2027	Town, MassDOT Complete Streets Program, MassTrails	DPCD, ABAC, MyRWA, DPW, Town Manager, MBTA, DCR, City of Medford, OSC
2.B.7. Improve accessibility to the Bikeway and its use by people with disabilities, particularly as part of 2.B.5. Examples of improvements could include adaptive equipment for rent at the Bikeway, adaptive cycle storage, and safer and more accessible access points and Bikeway crossings.	Ongoing	MassDOT Complete Streets Program	DPW, ABAC, DC, Town Manager, MBTA
2.B.8. Identify a network of corridors that connect the Town's recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces. These corridors can be used by people as well as wildlife. Consider connections that can be made with Town-owned properties, public rights-of-way, and possibly private easements to fill gaps.	Ongoing	CPA, MassTrails	ACC, DPCD, ABAC, MPIC, OSC, PRC, SB, Town Manager
Objective 2.C. Ensure that the Town's recreational areas and programming meet local needs and are safe and accessible for all users.			
2.C.1. Coordinate with all parties to balance competing needs and uses for open spaces	Ongoing	Town	OSC, PRC, ACC, DPCD, DPW
2.C.2. Prioritize improvements and new amenities in environmental justice communities (EJ Census Tracts and CDBG eligible Block Groups).	Ongoing	CDBG, CPA	DPCD, DC, AHA, HCA, SB, OSC, PRC, REC
2.C.3. Encourage varied uses at existing parks and playing fields, including unprogrammed and unstructured sports and nontraditional recreational activities.	Ongoing	CDBG, CPA, Town	PRC, REC
2.C.4. Encourage use of facilities and more programming for youth and teenagers beyond organized sports fields, including the Community Center and smaller open spaces.	Ongoing	Town, CDBG	PRC, REC, OSC, Community Groups, Schools

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
2.C.5. Pursue new recreational opportunities based on community preferences, such as additional indoor or outdoor swimming facilities, pickleball courts, outdoor fitness courses, and other rising interests.	Ongoing	CPA	PRC, REC
2.C.6. Create and enhance opportunities for nature-based recreation, including multiuse paths, volunteer opportunities, and other activities.	Ongoing	Town	PRC, REC, ACC, Community Groups
2.C.7. Identify additional spaces where dogs can exercise off leash.	2022-2024		PRC, REC, ADOG
2.C.8. Incorporate more public art and performing arts programs into recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.	Ongoing	Private	PRC, REC, ACAC
2.C.9. Look for opportunities to incorporate small pocket parks in neighborhoods to add green infrastructure like rain gardens, community gardens, pollinator pathways, benches, and shade trees to create a gathering space. Consider adapting small Town-owned lots or oversized intersections or rights-of-way with similar landscaping.	Ongoing	MVP Action Grant	OSC, DPCD, DPW, ACC
2.C.10 Implement accessible upgrades and other improvements already planned for Hurd Field and for playgrounds at Robbins Farm Park, Spy Pond Park, Parmenter, Bishop, Peirce, and Stratton Schools.	2022-2024	Town, CPA	PRC, REC
Objective 2.D. Provide equitable access to and use of Town open spaces and recreation opportunities.			
2.D.1. Employ universal design principles to increase accessibility when upgrading playing fields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, prioritizing those highlighted in the <i>Field and Playground Feasibility Study</i> and the <i>Arlington Parks Playground Assessment and Recommendation Report</i> .	Ongoing	Town	PRC, REC, DC, DPW, Schools

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
2.D.2. Continue to work with the Disability Commission to address barriers for people with disabilities at existing recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces. Improvements may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing handicap parking spots, including for vans, and their visibility near the entrances to major parks and recreational facilities. Creating more accessible paths with interpretive signage (e.g., braille, QR codes) and seating (e.g., benches, picnic tables). Providing more accessible gardening options and equipment. Incorporating accessible playground equipment and structures that expand opportunities for all ages, abilities, or languages. 	Ongoing	Town, CDBG	DC, PRC, DPW, REC, ACC
2.D.3. Work with the Council on Aging (COA) to implement the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan to ensure that Arlington is supporting older residents in meeting their recreational needs and increasing their opportunities to be outdoors.	Ongoing	Town, CDBG	COA, PRC, REC
2.D.4. Work with the Recreation Department, Arlington Public Schools, and community groups to ensure that open spaces and recreational facilities meet the Town's goals of diversity, equity and inclusion, including language access.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, PRC, REC, TM

Goal 3. Support local and regional capacity to meet the needs for recreational opportunities, natural resource protection, and overall resource management to be resilient to climate change.

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
Objective 3.A. Sustain and increase Town staff and funding resources to manage conservation areas, recreational facilities, and other public spaces to meet community needs, climate resilience, and adaptation goals.			
3.A.1. Continue to support the Town's resilience and sustainability initiatives that coincide with recreational and open space planning, including the Net Zero Action Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, SB, OSC, ACC, ARB, SA

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
3.A.2. Support implementation of the Public Land Management Plan, including follow up to develop site-specific management plans for the Town’s conservation areas to identify unique challenges, such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for larger clean-up efforts • Invasive species control • Impacts of chemical controls on wildlife • Trail maintenance • Impacts of artificial surfaces on heat island effects and the quality of wildlife habitat • Erosion and sedimentation control • Native planting projects 	2025-2027	CPA	DPCD, PRC, DPW, OSC, PLMPWG, ACC
3.A.3. Implement ongoing plans for regular maintenance and upgrading of equipment and amenities at the Town’s recreational facilities, playgrounds, ballfields, parks, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize locations with older, unsafe equipment, those that do not meet ADA standards, and those in EJ Census Tracts and CDBG eligible Block Groups. 	Ongoing	CPC, CPA, CDBG, Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program	PRC, DPW, REC
3.A.4. Identify a sustainable funding source to support long-range maintenance and upkeep of the Town's recreation and conservation properties and other public spaces, in addition to the Town’s Capital Plan.	Ongoing	Town	TM

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
<p>3.A.5. Evaluate overall Town property operations and maintenance of recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces to ensure the upkeep and ongoing maintenance and to identify opportunities for more environment-friendly approaches and reducing energy consumption. Some considerations are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify needed staff (full-time, part-time, seasonal) to meet community needs. • Identify needs for enforcement of proper use of public spaces. • Control invasive plants with non-toxic means. • Purchase electric or more energy efficient equipment and vehicles. • Install energy efficient lighting. • Follow anti-idling practices. • Install nature-based solutions/green infrastructure to manage stormwater. • Use native plants in landscaping. • Implement sustainable turf maintenance (watering, pest management, etc.). 	2022-2024	Town	DPCD, TM, PLMPWG, DPW, SA, ACC, OSC, PRC, REC
3.A.6. Ensure funding to support Town database and mapping resources, improve data quality and accuracy, and increase Town staffing and funding for the same to aid future open space and recreation planning.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, Information Technology Dept.
Objective 3.B. Support and participate in state and regional recreation, open space, and climate resilience planning initiatives.			
3.B.1. Coordinate regional open space planning in the Alewife/Mystic region with organizations such as Mystic River Watershed Association, Friends of Alewife Reservation, the Tri-Town Group (Arlington, Somerville, Cambridge), and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, DPW
3.B.2. Continue to work closely with neighboring communities on shared open space and recreational resources, such as the Minuteman Bikeway (Cambridge, Lexington, and Bedford), Alewife Brook Reservation region (Belmont, Somerville, and Cambridge), Mystic Lakes/River region (Medford and Winchester), and Arlington's Great Meadows, Reservoir, and McClennen Park areas (Lexington).	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, ABAC, PRC, ACC, OSC

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
3.B.3. Continue to work with the MWRA, DCR, Cambridge and Somerville officials, and other stakeholders to address Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) pollution and flooding problems in areas bordering Alewife Brook and Mystic River.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, ACC, Community Groups
3.B.4. Advocate for more state funding for the CPA to match funds raised locally, and for more dollars for local aid and grants for conservation and recreation.	Ongoing	Town	TM, CPA Committee
Objective 3.C. Strengthen the Open Space Committee's ability to oversee implementation of the OSRP.			
3.C.1. Advocate actively for implementing OSRP goals, objectives, and priorities in conjunction with other Town plans and policies supporting open space and recreation planning.	2027-2029	Town	OSC, DPCD
3.C.2. Work with all responsible parties to develop metrics and other methods to measure progress and document accomplishments on all OSRP goals, objectives, and action items.	2025-2027	Town	OSC, DPCD
3.C.3. Research all Town-owned open space and recreation properties to confirm ownership and management status and update records as needed to comply with state land use and protection guidelines.	2025-2027	Town	OSC, DPCD, TM, SB, PRC, ACC, Town Counsel, Assessors

Goal 4. Build environmental stewardship and public awareness of the Town’s recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
Objective 4.A. Support volunteer groups involved with recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.			
4.A.1. Identify information and training needs for volunteer groups and Friends organizations to help maintain and build capacity and to ensure a large enough pool of volunteers to minimize burnout and retain local experience. Activities can be site-specific or broad enough to cover needs across properties. Topics might include the use of native plants, sustainable control of invasive plants, and trail maintenance best practices.	Ongoing	CPA, Private	OSC, DPCD, PRC, REC, ACC, Community Groups
4.A.2. Support FoAGM's efforts to remove invasive plants and restore upland meadows and other habitats, to protect and support diverse wildlife and plant species, and to provide public access and public events at Arlington's Great Meadows.	Ongoing	Town, MassWildlife Habitat Management, Private	FoAGM, ACC
4.A.3. Promote the efforts of the Conservation Land Stewards Program to collaborate with residents, users, and volunteers on both fundraising and maintenance projects.	Ongoing	Town, Private	ACC, DPCD
4.A.4. Support all Town-sponsored and independent recreational and sports organizations in the funding and maintenance of playing fields, Ed Burns Arena, and other active recreational facilities.	Ongoing	Town, Private	PRC, REC, DPW, DCR
4.A.5. Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, including Scouts, community service high school students), sports teams, and other users in caring for all open spaces.	Ongoing		APS, DPW, PRC, REC, ACC, DPCD
Objective 4.B. Promote environmental stewardship and climate resilience information to help users protect the Town’s natural environment and their own properties.			
4.B.1. Continue to hold community events like EcoWeek and Town Day to engage and educate residents about local environmental issues and projects.	Ongoing		SA, DPW, DPCD

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
4.B.2. Expand and formalize educational programs on sustainability for residents, such as native plant gardening, pollinator pathways, and water conservation strategies, to block, district, or town scale.	Ongoing	CPA, CDBG, Town, Private	SA, DPCD
4.B.3. Continue to support the “adopt an island” garden program and other activities to enhance streetscapes throughout the town.	Ongoing		DPW, Arlington Garden Club
4.B.4. Continue to support the implementation of the <i>Net Zero Action Plan</i> to promote energy efficiency and reduction with the Clean Energy Future Committee and other groups.	Ongoing		SA, DPCD
4.B.5. Assess Arlington’s stewardship network, identify gaps, and overlaps in activity.	2022-2024	Town, Private	DPCD
4.B.6. Work with Friends groups to organize nature walks and environmental education programs for all ages (such as birding, canoeing/kayaking, and cleanup campaigns).	Ongoing	Town	APS, ACC, PRC
4.B.7. Work with local youth groups, churches, schools, scout groups, and other organizations to promote awareness about the Town’s open space and recreation facilities and activities.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, PRC, REC, Community Groups
Objective 4.C. Increase public awareness and encourage the use of the town’s natural areas, recreational facilities, and other public spaces.			
4.C.1. Encourage residents to participate actively in various Town committees and Friends groups to advocate for the investment in and maintenance of the Town’s natural resources.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, PRC, REC, DPW, ACC, DPCD, Community Groups
4.C.2. Provide up-to-date information on the Town website, social media, and print publications about open space areas and recreational facilities. Ensure that all materials are accessible to all users.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, TM, PRC, REC, DPW, ACC, DPCD
4.C.3. Continue to upgrade and expand wayfinding, interpretive signage, and other materials that are integrated into historic sites, conservation areas, and other natural places. Ensure materials are accessible to people with diverse abilities and language needs, including translation, tactile, braille, and larger print options.	Ongoing	Town, Private	OSC, TM, PRC, REC, DPW, ACC, DPCD, AHiS, HC, HDC

Action Item	Timeline	Potential Funding Sources	Responsible Parties
4.C.4. Coordinate and support community events and educational programming at Town facilities to increase awareness and promote their use. Prioritize using sites in different parts of town to reach all residents.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, PRC, REC, Community Groups
4.C.5. Promote events and programs sponsored by independent groups such as Menotomy Bird Club, Boys and Girls Club, and Mystic River Watershed Association.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, Community Groups
Objective 4.D. Expand and enhance opportunities to utilize nontraditional open spaces.			
4.D.1. Promote the availability of public plazas, outdoor restaurant seating, and other opportunities for the enjoyment of small, landscaped areas along streets and sidewalks.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, OSC, local businesses
4.D.2. Coordinate economic development, tourism, and historic and cultural programming at the Town's historic sites and landscapes.	Ongoing	Town	DPCD, A-TED, AHiS, HC
4.D.3. Provide information about small, little-known open spaces such as conservation parcels, rain gardens and other green infrastructure, and community gardens.	Ongoing	Town	OSC, ACC, SA